

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES - COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1. NAME

HISTORIC St. Ignace College

ALTERNATE NAMES St. Ignace College Fred

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1076 West Roosevelt

CITY/TOWN Chicago

VICINITY OF

STATE Illinois

CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY Cook

CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Society of Jesus

STREET & NUMBER 1076 West Roosevelt

CITY/TOWN Chicago

VICINITY OF

STATE Illinois

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

CONVEYANCE RECORD OR REFERENCE Cook County Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER County Building, 116 North Clark Street

CITY/TOWN Chicago

STATE Illinois

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE 1874-1875 St. Ignace College Survey

DATE 1874

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DRAWN BY OR SURVEYED BY J. C. Genderson, Burlington, Ill.

CITY/TOWN West Chicago

STATE Ill.

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

DESCRIPTION

St. Ignace School, a monumental, five-story building, is faced with Illinois cut stone on the ground floor and brick on succeeding floors. Each window is trimmed with stone; the corners have decorative quoins. The building is T-shaped.

The school building is approached by a formal axial double staircase. Its wrought iron balustrade with its maker's plate is original. Massive paneled entry doors each carved with a lion's head open into a vestibule. The trim framing this arched doorway imitates rope. The transom contains original etched glass displaying the school's emblems and address when built.

The center hall extends without interruption from the front to the rear of the building. Just beyond the entrance vestibule there is a parlor on either side of this hall. Both have tin ceilings. Because the parlor doors and their paneled jacks remain unpainted, they provide one of the few examples in the building of the fine original finish. The trim throughout the building is hardwood. The flooring is plank-width hardwood; much of it is now covered with tile.

Beyond the parlors, crossing the center hall at right angles, is another hallway. On both sides of that hallway were and wide curving staircases leading to the upper three floors. The newel posts and handrails are supported by tongue-and-groove fir beaded boards instead of balusters.

Beyond the staircase, farther along the central corridor, are offices, a lecture hall, and a chapel. The latter has been greatly altered so that all that remains of its original decoration is one chandelier and the doors with their etched and colored glass. These rooms generally had tin ceilings, but some are now covered over.

The ground floor has kitchen and dining facilities for the priests and classrooms for the students. There are living quarters for the priests on the upper floors of the building. The second floor also contains a library, and the second and third floors have classrooms as well. On the fourth floor there is a gymnasium (originally the auditorium) and the Scenic Art Room (which began as a museum). The latter is the most magnificent room in the school building. It is two stories high, and its walls are lined with richly carved two-story boiserie wains. The balcony level of the boiserie is reached by a double, curved staircase. Panels decorated with carved flowers and plants were executed by the Imperial & Glass Company, manufacturers of pool tables. Shaved wooden columns support the balcony. The original ceiling fixtures have been electrified. Stencils on the ceiling were covered when a sprinkler system was added.

The fifth floor has the original sculpted meeting hall. This floor is not reached from the exterior since it shares the 18-foot windows with the floor below. Although now used for storage and in a great

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCRIPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL HUMANITARIANISM
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLOIATION SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICAL GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1860-1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

To find a pre-fire Catholic school still surviving in Chicago on the scale and magnificence of St. Ignatius is remarkable. Its handsome architecture is a tribute to the determination of the American Jesuits to have only the finest in their educational facilities. That the building is still being used for educational purposes after a period of 105 years is a tribute to the zeal of Father Damen, whose name remains commonplace in Chicago today because of the major street named after him.

HISTORY

Father Arnold Damen, born in DeLour, Holland, on March 20, 1814, came to America in the company of Father DeSmet in 1837. While pastor of the Jesuit church of St. Francis Xavier in St. Louis, he managed the parish schools and realized the importance of this aspect of parochial service. In 1856, he was invited by bishop O'Regan of Chicago to conduct a series of spiritual revivals which met with great success. This persuaded Bishop O'Regan to invite Father Damen to establish a Jesuit parish in Chicago. With the sanction of his Superior in St. Louis Father Damen chose a site on the west side where large numbers of Irish Catholic immigrants were settling down and building small wooden houses. That was the year 1857, remembered especially for its business panic. When though banks, business and commercial houses were closing throughout America, Father Damen tenaciously cultivated the good will of his parishioners and in 1857 they supported him in his efforts to build a small frame church. They also stood behind him until he realized his dream of a college dedicated to St. Ignatius.

Financial difficulty forced the catholic university of St. Mary of the Lake in Chicago to close its doors in 1866 which provided Father Damen with justification for building a Jesuit college for catholic boys. Property was purchased in 1868. The foundation laid, and part of the walls built when progress was halted due to lack of funds. At this time the Acting Provincial, Father Joseph Keller, a man of enterprise and vision, was notified of Father Damen's plight. Father Keller had been thwarted in his plans to build a boarding school on a grand scale, and he was eager to see Father Damen succeed.

To give vent the 10 percent on money borrowed in Chicago, plans were sent to the Paterity to allow Father Damen to travel to Holland with Father Jean Van Gool to secure an assured sum of \$20,000

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

6. HISTORY, continued

at 47 interest from Father Van Goch's brother. Permission to leave for Holland in June of 1868 was granted when it was explained in a letter that "the building is to be built on a large scale to compete with protestant colleges and public schools, which are like palaces. It is necessary to do this to induce parents to give us the preference; external appearances do much to impress Americans."

In September of 1868, Father Lumen and Father Van Goch returned, money in hand. The structural work of the college proceeded and was completed in 1870. The cost of construction was approximately \$250,000, an enormous amount at that time. With two classes of students and a staff of four professors, the college was formally opened in September 1870. It was grandiose like all of Father Keller's conceptions. By 1884, the attendance had grown to require the addition of a wing at the rear of the building.

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

sides of dormitory, the hall at one time was elaborately fitted out and its ceilings were stenciled. Remnants of this decoration are still visible today.

The attic, lit by dormer windows, houses the great wooden trusses whose cords support the ceilings below and whose rafters support the roof.

A wing containing classrooms was designed and built at the rear of the building in 1875.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- McKerrow, Thomas W. Holy Family Parish: Friends and People, 1923
 Father Coppens, S. J. "Microfilm Edition of Notable Pioneers," Illinois Catholic Historical Review, Vol 11, No. 4, April 1920.
- Carrington Gilbert S., S. J. "Beginnings of Holy Family Parish, Chicago,"
Illinois Catholic Historical Review, Vol 1, No. 4, April 1919.
- Pierce, Jessie Louise. A History of Chicago, Vol. II, 1940, p. 362.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

AGRIAGE OF NON-HATED PROPERTY
 UTM REFERENCES

A 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

B 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	LAND	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	COUNTY	COUNTY	CODE

FORM FINDER KEY

NAME TITLE
 Annette L. Slonta

May 30, 1976

DATE
 (312) 652-7485

ADDRESS NUMBER
 2100 South Austin Boulevard
 CITY/TOWN
 Chicago

TELEPHONE
 Illinois
 STATE

STATEMENT TO FEDERAL ARCHIVAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS

NATIONAL STATE X LOCAL

As the Director of the National Preservation Office for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Historic Service

STATE PERSON CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME DATE

STATE PERSON CONTACT INFORMATION
 FEDERAL ARCHIVAL AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

DATE DATE

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered NOV 17 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Cluever, Richard, House	Maywood Cook County
First Congregational Church of Austin	Chicago Cook County
Kent, Sydney, House	Chicago Cook County
St. Ignatius College	Chicago Cook County

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson
Hon. Henry J. Hyde
Hon. Dan Rostenkowski
Hon. Ralph H. Metcalfe
Hon. Cardiss Collins

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION